

# Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis

Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis (1877-1970) was the first African-American general in the United States Army, having risen from the rank of private. His son, Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., (born 1912) was the first African-American Air Force general (1954-65), and lieutenant general (1965-70).

Although success came late in his military career, Davis was nonetheless a tireless proponent of desegregation and equal civil rights despite professional and personal hardships, and is considered a significant force in shaping the future achievements of African Americans.

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